



MINE INSPECTOR SURFACE (COAL)

PHOTO ID REQUIRED

Article 3 of the **Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia** establishes requirements for certification of coal mine workers. The certification requirements are included in §45.1-161.24 through §45.1-161.41 in which the Board of Coal Mining Examiners is established for the purpose of administering the certification program. The Board has promulgated certification regulations 4 VAC 25-20, which set the minimum standards and procedures required for Virginia coal miner examinations and certifications.

CERTIFICATION CLASSIFICATION: **Mine Inspector Surface (Coal)*

This certification authorizes the holder to:

- Qualify for Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, Division of Mines Inspector positions
- Conduct safety and health inspections at surface coal mine sites when employed by the Division

NOTE:

- This certification shall not be used in lieu of any other certification. Issued only if employed by the Division of Mines.

APPLICATION/EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:

- Application (BCME-1) and \$40.00 fee 5 working days prior to examination
 - **Note:** Examinations are limited to 20 people and tend to fill quickly. Application fees are due no later than 5 working days prior to the examination, but this will not guarantee that an opening will be available.
- Hold a valid Surface Mine Foreman Certification in Virginia
- 23 years of age
- Five years of mining experience at least two years experience must be at a surface mine.

NOTE: Experience must be submitted within 5 years of passing the examination. After 5 years records are destroyed. Must reapply if future certification is desired.

- Four year Mining Engineering Degree shall suffice for three years of the five years experience (copy of degree required) (NOTE: The additional two years required must be at a surface mine).
- Mine Technology Degree shall suffice for two years of the five years experience (copy of degree required) (NOTE: At least two of the remaining years experience must be at a surface mine).
- Hold a General Miner Surface Certification and Gas Detection as part of this certification (A card will be issued)
- Hold an Advanced First Aid Certification issued by the Division of Mines or a certification by EMT or First Responder issued by the Virginia Department of Health.

NOTE: Degree and certificate cannot be combined for total experience. Can only use either a degree or certificate.

EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS: A score of 80% on each element of the examination

ELEMENTS OF EXAM	NUMBER OF QUESTIONS
▪ Electrical & Equipment (EE)	20
▪ Explosives (EX)	20
▪ Mine Foremanship (MF)	20
▪ General Mine Practices (MP)	25
▪ Virginia Coal Surface Mining Reclamation Regulations (RL)	20
▪ Gas Detection - practical demonstration	
▪ Records - Preshift/Onshift (PO)	
▪ Ground Control/Red Zone Practical	

RECOMMENDED REFERENCE/STUDY MATERIALS:

- Surface Foreman Guide & Surface Rules & Regs. (\$12.00)
- VA Ground Control Plan/Red Zones (Included in study guide)
- VA Coal Surface Mining Reclamation Regs. – DMLR (Included in study guide)
- BCME Requirements (No Charge)
- Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia (\$5.50)

The above mentioned study materials are available at the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy's Big Stone Gap Office, Customer Assistance Center (276) 523-8233 and Lebanon Field Office (276) 415-9650.

THIS CERTIFICATION IS CRITERIA FOR EMPLOYMENT WITH THE DIVISION OF MINES WHEN APPLYING FOR CERTAIN POSITIONS.